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CONGRESSIONAL HEARING RESUME

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HEARING RESUME

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
Washington

Office of the Secretary

SAFLLL

Major Garvin/gjj/74480
May 28, 1963
File: H. R. 4338 (88)
H. R. 4739 (88)
H. R. 2989 (88)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hearings before Subcommittee No. 1, House Armed Services Committee

Subcommittee No. 1, House Armed Services Committee held hearings at 1000 hours on May 28, 1963, in room 304, Old House Office Building. Present at the hearings were Chairman Rivers and Representatives Bennett, Huddleston, Long, Bates and Gubser. The Subcommittee Counsel was Mr. John R. Blandford.

At 1010 Mr. Rivers read a brief opening statement on H. R. 4338, a bill "To amend title 37, United States Code, to authorize travel and transportation allowances for travel performed under orders that are canceled, revoked, or modified, and for other purposes." Mr. Rivers was followed by Colonel J. W. Scanlan, Policy Division, AFDPD, who read a prepared statement. Mr. Rivers asked some questions concerning the Comptroller General Decision which generated this legislation. Mr. Blandford then cited a case involving an Army captain and said that several years ago Chairman Vinson of the House Armed Services Committee sent a strong letter to the Department of Defense on this case. He said that Mr. Vinson pointed out that the change in orders and the subsequent loss of money by this Army captain was an example of poor personnel administration. Mr. Bates then asked why we had cited certain cases and why the bill was retroactive to October 1, 1949. Colonel Scanlan said that the case of Major Cook was typical and that it was used because the Congress had granted relief to Major Cook last year. He also pointed out that we felt that since the Congress had granted relief in some cases that we should ask for authority to grant relief to everyone. Mr. Bates also asked about what the regulations required concerning the requirement of an individual who is on leave prior to travel keeping his command advised as to where he is. Colonel Scanlan explained that the regulations are very specific on this subject.

The Subcommittee agreed to favorably report H. R. 4338 to the Full House Armed Services Committee.

At 1040 Mr. Rivers read a short opening statement on H. R. 4739, a bill "To amend section 406 of title 37, United States Code, with regard to the advance movement of dependents and baggage and household effects of members of the uniformed services."

Major Twisdale, Office of the Chief of Finance, U. S. Army read a prepared witness statement. Mr. Rivers asked what circumstances caused this bill to be introduced. Mr. Blandford explained several instances where the bill would apply and some of the problems which had occurred in the past. He emphasized that the record should be very clear, that cases under this bill involve "unusual" circumstances. One section of the bill indicates that if dependents are sent home for the convenience of the Government, and if later the situation is such that the dependents could rejoin their sponsors, that the Government would pay the cost of both trips. Mr. Bennett suggested that once the dependents had been sent home that they should not be permitted to rejoin the sponsor. After considerable discussion the Subcommittee decided that transportation of dependents and house hold goods should only be paid for by the Government in cases where the dependents are rejoining the sponsor where it is a case involving the convenience of the Government. This second payment, or as it was described by one member of the Subcommittee, this "second dip" should not be paid where it is done at the convenience of the individual.

Colonel Scanlan said that the present law permits evacuation of dependents under unusual and emergency situations such as was done in the case of evacuation of dependents from Guantanamo Naval Base. He also explained that the bill intended to cover circumstances involving the return of dependents when a member is being discharged for other than honorable conditions and also in cases involving serious illnesses. The Subcommittee agreed to favorably report H. R. 4739 to the Full Committee and emphasized the fact that the joint travel regulations should be drafted in accordance with the desires which the Subcommittee had earlier indicated would be included in the report on this bill.

During the course of discussions of circumstances which would be covered by this bill, Chairman Rivers pointed out that some of our difficulties are caused by the fact that the Services do not select people as carefully as they should before sending them overseas. He emphasized that these people are in effect "ambassadors" of the United States and that some people, both military and dependents, should not be sent overseas. He cited an example of an Army general who had difficulty with American dependents wearing "shorts" to the PX, etc.. Mr. Rivers said he certainly did not approve of the American tourist wearing shorts when visiting the U. S. Capitol. Later on Mr. Rivers, Mr. Bates, and Mr. Blandford all commented about the fact that precise rules cannot always be incorporated into the law and that the Per Diem, Travel, and Transportation Committee of the Department of Defense was doing a good job. They indicated that they were often tougher than the Committee, and also often times the JTRs were tough to understand.

At 1105 Mr. Blandford read a short opening statement for Mr. Rivers on H. R. 2989, a bill "To further amend the Missing Persons Act to cover certain persons detained in foreign countries against their will, and for other purposes." Colonel Scanlan then read his prepared statement

and after some brief questions concerning the purpose of the bill, the Subcommittee agreed to report H. R. 2989 to the Full Committee. The Subcommittee was adjourned subject to the call of the Chair at 1130.



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